Waste Management Project

Expectation:

Safely treat, store and dispose of solid wastes and liquid effluents, and provide analytical, generator, environmental, transportation and packaging, and waste-minimization services.

Waste Retrieval Update:

- **We accelerated the retrieval of transuranic (TRU) waste drums by nearly 14 months (July 1999 vs. September 2000).**
- **Conducted non-destructive assay of 269 drums, against a first-batch target of 200. Of those, 224 were characterized as TRU waste.**
- **First phase involves 1,400 uncovered drums to develop sound cost and safety plans for thousands of buried drums.**
- **Current schedules call for retrieving 10,000 TRU drums by 2004.**

Uncovered drums of transuranic waste in this large trench are among the first retrieved more than a year early. Earlier retrieval of older drums provides for greater worker safety and minimizes the risk of failure of thousands more containers that are now buried, which would add to cleanup costs.

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Waste Treatment and Disposal Update:

- **Months of preparation paid off in a successful evaporator campaign, processing 1.1 million gallons of high-level waste from various Hanford tanks. This process cost-effectively reduces the Site's volume of contaminated liquids, recovering critical storage space in the waste tanks. Waste for the next campaign was staged and sampled.**

- **Completed secondary containment upgrades at the 222-S Lab and 2706-T facility near T Plant, making those waste streams compliant with the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.**

- **Disposal of mixed low-level waste began in a trench in the 200 Area more than a year and a half ahead of the Tri-Party Agreement target date. We also began shipping 560 meters of other mixed low-level waste for non-thermal treatment offsite.**

- **Feedback from the DOE's Carlsbad Area Office audit in July on our preparations to ship TRU waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico was encouraging. Corrective actions have been addressed. Certification to ship is expected after a joint DOE/EPA audit in fiscal 2000.**

Process operations inside the 242-A Evaporator are monitored in the condenser room. The evaporator process boiled off 84 percent of the liquid from the waste in the latest campaign. The condensate was then processed through the Effluent Treatment Facility, and the rest, a concentrated slurry of high-level waste, transferred back to the AW Tank Farm.